

2022 Economic Development Summit Responding to New Realities Friday, November 18, 2022

8:30 am **Registration | Networking | Photo Booth**

9:00 am **Welcome / Greetings**

- Michael Barrett, MP Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
- Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing / MPP Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
- Roger Haley, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
- Nancy Peckford, Mayor, Municipality of North Grenville

9:15 am **Keynote: Building Ontario in Uncertain Economic Times**

Ontario's Minister of Finance will discuss the progress on the government's Plan to Build as it also navigates emerging economic challenges.

Presenter:

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

10:00 am **BREAK**

10:20 am **Bill Thake Memorial Economic Development Leadership Award**

Nominees: JoAnne Sytsma, Township of Athens
Derek Ouellet, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
Dermid O'Farrell, Municipality of North Grenville
Susan Warren, Township of Rideau Lakes

Introductions: Alison Tutak, Acting CAO, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager

Announcement: Roger Haley, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Marlene Thake

10:45 am **Keynote: BDC Economic Outlook**

Join Pierre Cl  roux for an overview of the economic situation here and abroad. From inflation to labour shortages, supply chain issues and the rise of interest rates, find out how our business environment has changed and how the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine continue to impact our economy. Also discover how Canadian entrepreneurs can build the way forward in this new context.

Presenter:

Pierre Cl  roux, Vice President, Research and Chief Economist, BDC

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11:30 am **Going Digital**

The pandemic brought to light the importance of going digital. Hundreds of local businesses received help from the Digital Main Street program to grow online. Learn about the impact and how local small businesses who have taken the plunge are now thriving in a digital world.

Presenters:

Shelbi McFarlane, Leeds Grenville Business Development Officer
Norma Banford, Golden Moment Farm, Athens
Shelley Mitchell, To Be Continued, North Grenville
Nicole Hudson, Katarina's Coffee Shop, Prescott

12:00 pm **LUNCH | Networking | Photo Booth | Made in Leeds Grenville**

1:00 pm **Growing our Logistics and Leveraging Opportunities**

For the past 10 years, Canadian Rail Equipment Works & Services has been contributing to our economic growth for the benefit of our communities and continues to act as a key gateway in Ontario. Clayton Jones will outline the importance of CREWS and how our region is strategically located to help business, while supporting and developing the North American supply chain.

Presenter:

Clayton Jones, President / CEO
CREWS-Canadian Rail Equipment Works & Services Inc.

1:25 pm **Understanding RTO 9 and the Opportunities**

Regional Tourism Organization 9 promotes, supports and encourages tourism industry growth in the South Eastern Ontario region. Hear about their initiatives to grow tourism visitation revenues and investment along with how they collaborate with businesses and organizations in Leeds Grenville.

Presenter:

Bonnie Ruddock, Executive Director, Region 9 Regional Tourism Organization

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Welcoming a Diversified Workforce

Workforce supply issues are affecting employers across the region, province and country. Hear from local industry leaders who are diversifying their workforce by engaging with immigrants and international students. A panel discussion will provide helpful information about local resources available to employers that enrich our workforce with skills and diversity.

Moderator: Melissa Francis, Program Manager, St. Lawrence-Rideau Immigration Partnership – Leeds–Grenville

Panel: Damian Ford, HR Coordinator, Southbridge Care Homes, Kemptville
Andrew Melchers, President, IN Engineering + Surveying, Brockville
Richard Webster, International Education Manager, St. Lawrence College
Tracy McDonald, Employment Services Supervisor, CSE Consulting

2:15 pm

Leeds Grenville Economic Update

Gain insight on how our local economy and businesses are managing in Leeds Grenville. Results of the Fall 2022 business survey will be shared along with highlights of the past year and the direction for 2023.

Presenter:

Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

2:45 pm

Wrap-up | Networking